



Atty Dkt No: PL08146.107
2302-6146.20
PATENT

Express Mail Label Number:
Date of Deposit:

EV 151700764 US
February 11, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Date:

2/11/02

By:

Hanna Hacham

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

In Re Application of:

PERSSON et al.

FEB 19 2003

Serial No.: 08/844,215

Art Unit: 1631

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Filing Date: April 17, 1997

Examiner: L. A. Clow

Title: HUMAN MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES SPECIFIC FOR HEPATITIS C
VIRUS (HCV) E2 ANTIGEN

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action in the above-referenced application, mailed September 11, 2002, with a shortened statutory period of three months for response. Accordingly, a two-month extension of time in which to respond is requested and a Petition and fee accompany this response. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

02/14/2003 MBERHE 00000003 08844215

01 FC:1252

410.00 OP

Accompanying Documents

Accompanying this response are the following documents:

- (1) Marked-up copy of the claims and drawings, showing the amendments made herein;
- (2) Currently pending claim set, incorporating the amendments made herein.

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

FEB 19 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

In the Drawings:

Please replace Figures 1-4 with the accompanying revised figures.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 31, 48 and 56 as follows:

31. (Three times amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a human Fab molecule, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises:

a first nucleotide sequence encoding a first polypeptide that is a binding portion of a $\gamma 1$ heavy chain variable region (V_H) of said human Fab molecule where said heavy chain region exhibits immunological binding affinity for a hepatitis C virus (HCV) E2 antigen; and wherein the first nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4A (SEQ ID NO:22) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4B (SEQ ID NO:23) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4C (SEQ ID NO:24) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4D (SEQ ID NO:25) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure 4E (SEQ ID NO:19) or a degenerate variant thereof; the contiguous sequence of nucleotides depicted in Figure